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Made upon the

SCAFFOLD

at *Whitehall*-Gate,

Immediately before his Execution,

On Tuesday the 30 of *Ian.* 1648.

With a Relation of the maner of his going to Execution.

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Tuesday, January 30.

ABout ten in the Morning the King was brought from St. James's, walking on foot through the Park, with a Regiment of Foot, part before and part behinde him, with Colours flying, Drums beating, his private guard of Partizans, with some of his Gentlemen before, and some behinde bareheaded, Dr. *Juxon* next behinde him, and Col: *Thomlinson* (who had the charge of him) talking with the King bareheaded from the Park, up the stairs into the Gallery, and so into the * Cabinet-Chamber, where he used to lie, where he continued at his Devotion, refusing to dine (having before taken the Sacrament) onely about an hour before he came forth, he drank a glass of Claret wine, and eat a piece of bread about twelve at noon.

From thence he was accompanied by Dr. *Juxon*, Col: *Thomlinson*, and other Officers, formerly appointed to attend him, and the private guard of Partizans, with Musketiers on each side, through the Banqueting-house adjoyning, to which the * Scaffold was erected, between Whitehall-Gate, and the Gate leading into the Gallery from St. James's: The Scaffold was

*It is observd, The King desired to have the use of the Cabinet, and the little room next it, where there was a Trap-door.

* It was near (if not in) the very place where the first blood in the beginning of the late troubles was shed, when the Kings Cavaliers fell upon the Citizens, killed one, and wounded about 50. others.

was hung round with black, and the floor covered with black, and the Ax and Block laid in the middle of the Scaffold. There were divers Companies of Foot, and Troops of Horse placed on the one side of the Scaffold towards Kings-street, and on the other side towards Charing-Cross, and the multitudes of people that came to be Spectators, very great.

The King being come upon the Scaffold, look'd very earnestly on the Block, and asked Col: *Hacker* if there were no higher: and then spake thus (directing his Speech chiefly to Colonel *Thomlinson*)

King. I Shall be very little heard of any body here, I shall therefore speak a word unto you here: Indeed I could hold my peace very well, if I did not think that holding my peace would make some men think, that I did submit to the guilt, as well as to the punishment: but I think it is my duty to God first, and to my Countrey, for to clear my self both as an honest man, and a good King, and a good Christian. I shall begin first with my Innocency, In troth I think it not very needful for me to insist long upon this, for all the world knows that I never did begin a War with the two Houses of Parliament, and I call God to witness, to whom I must shortly make an account, That I never did intend for to incroach upon their Priviledges, they began upon me, it is the Militia they began upon, they confest that the Militia was mine, but they thought it fit for to have it from me: and to be short, if any body will look to the dates of Commissions, of their Commissions and mine, and likewise to the Declarations, will see clearly that they began these unhappy Troubles, not I: so that as the guilt of these enormous crimes that are laid against me, I hope in God that God will clear me of it, I will not, I am in charity: God forbid that I should lay it upon the two Houses of Parliament, there is no necessity of either, I hope they are free of this guilt: for I do believe that ill Instruments between them and me, has been the chief cause of all this bloodshed: so that by way of speaking, as I finde my self clear of this, I hope (and pray God) that they may too: yet for all this,

this, God forbid that I ſhould be ſo ill a Chriſtian, as not to ſay that Gods judgements are juſt upon me: Many times he does pay Juſtice by an unjuſt Sentence, that is ordinary: I will onely ſay this, That an unjuſt Sentence * that I ſuffered for to take effect, is puniſhed now by an unjuſt Sentence upon me, that is, ſo far I have ſaid, to ſhew you that I am an innocent man.

* *Strafford.*

Now for to ſhew you that I am a good Chriſtian: I hope there is * a good man that will bear me witneſs, That I have forgiven all the world, and even thoſe in particular that have been the chief cauſers of my death: who they are, God knows, I do not deſire to know, I pray God forgive them. But this is not all, my Charity muſt go farther, I wiſh that they may repent, for indeed they have committed a great ſin in that particular: I pray God with St. *Stephen*, That this be not laid to their charge, nay, not only ſo, but that they may take the right way to the Peace of the Kingdom, for my charity commands me not onely to forgive particular men, but my Charity commands me to endeavor to the laſt gaſp the Peace of the kingdom: So (Sirs) I do wiſh with all my ſoul, and I do hope (there is * ſome here will carry it further) that they may endeavor the Peace of the kingdom.

* Pointing to D *Juxon.*

* Turning to ſome Gentlemen that wrote.

Now (Sirs) I muſt ſhew you both how you are out of the way, and will put you in a way: Firſt, you are out of the way, for certainly all the way you ever have had yet, as I could finde by any thing, is in the way of Conqueſt; certainly this is an ill way, for Conqueſt (Sir) in my opinion is never juſt, except there be a good juſt Cauſe, either for matter of Wrong or juſt Title, and then if you go beyond it, the firſt quarrel that you have to it, that makes it unjuſt at the end that was juſt at firſt: But if it be onely matter of Conqueſt, then it is a great Robbery: as a Pirat ſaid to *Alexander*, that He was the great Robber, he was but a petty Robber: and ſo, Sir, I do think the way that you are in, is much out of the way. Now Sir, for to put you in the way, believe it you will never do right, nor God will never proſper you, until you give God his due, the king his due (that is, my Succeſſors) and the People their due: I am

as much for them as any of you: You must give God his due, by regulating rightly his Church (according to his Scripture) which is now out of order: For to set you in a way particularly now I cannot, but onely this, A National Synod freely called, freely debating among themselves, must settle this, when that every Opinion is freely and clearly heard.

For the King, indeed I will not (then turning to a Gentleman that touched the Ax, said, Hurt not the Ax, that may hurt me *. For the King) the Laws of the Land will clearly instruct you for that; therefore because it concerns my own particular, I onely give you a touch of it.

* Meaning if he did blunt the edge.

For the people: And truly I desire their Liberty and Freedom as much as any body whomsoever, but I must tell yon, That their Liberty and their Freedom consists in having of Government; those Laws, by which their Life and their Goods may be most their own. It is not for having share in Government (Sir) that is nothing pertaining to them; A Subject and a Soveraign are clean different things, and therefore until they do that, I mean, That you do put the People in that Liberty as I say, certainly they will never enjoy themselves.

Sirs, It was for this that now I am come here: If I would have given way to an Arbitrary way, for to have all Laws changed according to the power of the Sword, I needed not to have come here, and therefore I tell you (and I pray God it be not laid to your charge) That I am the Martyr of the People.

Introth Sirs, I shall not hold you much longer, for I will onely say this to you, That intruth I could have desired some little time longer, because that I would have put this that I have said in a little more order, and a little better digested then I have done, and therefore I hope you will excuse me.

I have delivered my Conscience, I pray God that you do take those courses that are best for the good of the kingdom, and your own salvations.

Doctor *Juxon*. Will your Majesty (though it may be very well known your Majesties affections to Religion, yet it may

be

be expected that you ſhould) ſay ſomewhat for the worlds ſatisfaction.

King. I thank you very heartily (my Lord) for that I had almoſt forgotten it. Introth Sirs, My Conſcience in Religion I think is very well known to all the world, and therefore I declare before you all, That I dye a Chriſtian, according to the profeſſion of the Church of *England*, as I found it left me by my Father, and this honeſt man *I think will witneſs it. Then turning to the Officers, ſaid, Sirs, excuſe me for this ſame, I have a good cauſe, and I have a gracious God, I will ſay no more. Then turning to Colonel *Hacker*, he ſaid, Take care that they do not put me to pain, and Sir this, and it pleaſe you; But then a Gentleman coming near the Ax, The King ſaid, Take heed of the Ax, pray take heed of the Ax, Then the King ſpeaking to the Executioner, ſaid, I ſhall ſay but very ſhort prayers, and when I thruſt out my hands———. Then the King called to Dr. *Juxon* for his Night-cap, and having put it on, he ſaid to the Executioner, Does my hair trouble you? who deſired him to put it all under his Cap, which the King did accordingly, by the help of the Executioner and the Biſhop: Then the King turning to Dr. *Juxon*, ſaid, I have a good Cauſe, and a gracious God on my ſide.

* Pointing to Dr. *Juxon*

Doctor *Juxon.* There is but one Stage more. This Stage is turbulent and troubleſome; it is a ſhort one: But you may conſider, it will ſoon carry you a very great way: it will carry you from Earth to Heaven; and there you ſhall finde a great deal of cordial joy and comfort.

King. I go from a corruptible to an incorruptible Crown; where no diſturbance can be, no diſturbance in the world.

Doctor *Juxon.* You are exchanged from a temporal to an eternal Crown, a good exchange.

The King then ſaid to the Executioner, is my hair well: Then the King took off his Cloak and his George, giving his George to Doctor *Juxon*, ſaying, Remember *———. Then the King put off his Dublet, and being in his Waſtcoat, put his Cloak on again, then looking upon the Block, ſaid to the Executioner, You muſt ſet it faſt.

* It is thought for to give it to the Prince.

Executioner.

1532
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Executioner. It is fast Sir.

King. It might have been a little higher.

Executioner. It can be no higher Sir.

King. When I put out my hands this way, * then ———.

* Stretching them out.

After that having said two or three words as he stood) to Himself with hands and eyes lift up; Immediately stooping down, laid his neck upon the Block: And then the Executioner again putting his Hair under his Cap, the King said * Stay for the sign.

* Thinking he had been going to strike.

Executioner. Yes, I will and it please your Majesty.

And after a very little pawse, the King stretching forth his hands, The Executioner at one blow severed his head from his body.

That when the Kings head was cut off, the executioner held it up, and shewed it to the Spectators.

And his Body was put in a coffin covered with black Velvet, for that purpose.

The kings Body now lies in his lodging Chamber in Whitehall.

Sic transit gloria mundi.

FINIS.

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